

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /067 W

----- 107993

R 090731Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4256

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7860

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, MA

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE NEGOTIATIONS WITH MUSLIM REBELS (MNLF)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING GOP NEWS AGENCY (PNA) FOREIGN MINISTERS OF FOUR ISLAMIC STATES INCLUDING LIBYA MET IN JIDDA JUNE 7 UNDER AL TOHAMY AUSPICES TO DISCUSS MINDANAO. PNA ACCOUNT INCLUDES EXCERPTS FROM RECENT CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN AL TOHAMY AND GOP IN WHICH PHILIPPINE UIDE REJECTED RESUMPTION (AT LEAST IN NEAR FUTURE) OF JIDDA TALKS WITH NUR MISURI AND ASSOCIATES, WHO GOP INSISTING SPEAK ONLY FOR ONE UNREPRESENTATIVE FACTION OF MNLF. GOP WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WAIT FOR RESULTS OF ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE BEFORE MAKING FURTHER MOVES. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING PNA (GOP NEWS AGENCY) FOREIGN MINISTERS OF  
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FOUR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES WHICH VISITED MINDANAO IN 1973--

SAUDIA ARABIA, SENEGAL, SOMALIA AND LIBYA--MET IN JIDDA  
JUNE 1 TO "EXPLORE ANEW" POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO PHILIPPINE  
MUSLIM INSURGENCY. REPORT SAID ISLAMIC CONFERENCE SECGEN  
AL TOHAMY CONVENED MEETING "IN FACE OF" GOP'S OWN RENEWED  
EFFORT" TOWARD SAME GOAL. PNA ACCOUNT GAVE EXCERPTS FROM  
EXCHANGES BETWEEN GOP AND AL TOHAMY DATING BACK TO APRIL,  
AS FOLLOWS:

A) ACCORDING PNA AL TOHAMY SENT MARCOS MESSAGA  
(APPARANTLY IN LATE APRIL) PROPOSING SECOND SESSION OF  
NEGOTIATIONS WITH MNLF IN JIDDA "WITHOUT PRIOR CONDITION"  
FOLLOWING BREAKDOWN OF FIRST SESSION IN JANUARY.

B) MARCOS REPLIED ON MAY 2 REQUESTING THAT CONFIRMATION  
OF MNLF WILLINGNESS TO TALK WITHOUT CONDITIONS BE  
OBTAINED FROM MNLF LEADERSHIP.

C) AL TOHAMY REPLIED (NO DATE GIVEN) THAT MNLF HAD  
REVERTED TO ORIGINAL STAND THAT RESUMPTION OF TALKS MUST  
BE BASED ON GOP ACCEPTANCE OF POLITICAL AUTONOMY FOR  
BANGUA MORO UTATE IN SOUTH.

D) FINALLY, PRESIDENT REPLIED (VIA LETTER FROM  
EXECSEC MELCHOR ON MAY 29) THAT HE "DEEPLY REGRETTED" THAT  
AL TOHAMY'S EARLIER CABLE "DID NOT REFLECT THE REAL THINK-  
ING OF THE SO-CALLED MNLF LEADERS" WHO HAD REVERTED TO  
THEIR "ORIGINAL INTRANSIGENT POSITION". MELCHOR REITERATED  
THAT PHILIPPINE PEOPLE HAD VEHEMENTLY REJECTED MNLF DEMAND  
FOR BANGSA MORO STATE IN FEBRUARY 27 NATIONAL REFERENDUM.  
ACCORDING MELCHOR "FILIPINO MUSLIM FIGHTERS" WHO ATTENDED  
APRIL 17-19 ZAMBOANGA TALKS, INCLUDING "NATIONALIST FACTION  
OF MNLF." ALSO REJECTED DEMANDS OF "SO-CALLED MNLF" (ELSE-  
WHERE REFERRED TO AS "MISUARI AND HIS ASSOCIATES.") THUS,  
MELCHOR CONCLUDED, MIUUARI AND CO. WOULD "BE RESPONSIBLE  
TO OUR PEOPLE AND TO THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE "IF PEACE-  
SEEKING EFFORT COMES TO NAUGHT AS A RASULT OF THEIR INTRAN-  
SIGENCE.

3. COMMENT: WORTH NOTING THAT MELCHOR'S FINAL REPLY TO  
AL TOHAMY DOES NOT TOTALLY RULE OUT RESUMPTION OF TALKS  
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WITH "SO-CALLED MNLF" AT SOME FUTURE DATE. GOP WILL ALMOST  
CERTAINLY WAIT TO SEE WHAT DECISIONS OF PLENARY ISLAMIC  
FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING MAY BE BEFORE MAKING FURTHER  
MOVES RE MINDANAO. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT GOVERN-  
MENT IS ENCOURAGED BY CONTINUING RELATIVE LULL IN  
FIGHTING (EXCEPT IN SULU ARCHIPELAGO) AND IS WISHFULLY  
THINKING THAT RECENT ROUND OF TALKS WITH PHONY DISSIDENTS  
AND OPPORTUNISTS MAY HAVE ACHIEVED SOME PROGRESS IN

SPLINTERING REBEL MOVEMENT. IT NOT CLEAR TO US WHETHER  
ALLEGED FOUR-NATION MEETING MENTIONED PARA ONE IS CONNECTED  
WITH FULL-SCALE ISLAMIC MINISTERIAL WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL  
COMMENCE IN JIDDA ON JULY 12.

4. FOR DEPARTMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION DATE AND  
VENUE OF ISLAMIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.  
PURNELL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MOSLEMS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, MINDANAO  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MANILA07860  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750201-0041  
**From:** MANILA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 123  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PHILIPPINE NEGOTIATIONS WITH MUSLIM REBELS (MNLF) CINCPAC FOR POLAD  
**TAGS:** PFOR, RP, MNLF, (AL-TOHAMY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006